

# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA

### 2011 ARRL DX Contest Wrap Up

By Dick Williams, W3OA

The 2011 edition of the ARRL International DX Contest is over, the logs are in, and the CDXA prizes have been awarded. Here are the results, based on claimed scores. The final scores will appear in QST this fall.

Once again CDXA increased our total score. In 2010 our CW score was 14.5 million points and our SSB score was 9.0 million points. Our 2011 scores were 13.9 million for CW and 14.1 million for SSB. So, although we dropped a bit in the CW contest we more than made up for it in the SSB contest with our total going from 23.6 million to 28 million points. In 2010 we placed third in the Medium Club competition. Hopefully we will show up high again when QST publishes the results of the 2011 Club competition.

CDXA members competed among themselves for first place prizes in six categories. Each received their choice of a \$50 Outback Steak House Gift card or a trophy plus a CDXA certificate. The winners were:

Top Combined Score: N4ZC, Roger, 3,583,134 points.

Top CW Score: K5EK, Ed, 1,884,627 points

Top Phone Score: K3XC, Ryan, 1,725,426 points

Top CW, Low Power, Score: KI4TZ, Joe, 844,164 points

Top Phone, Low Power, Score: W3ZL, Cliff, 253,905points

Top DXpedition Score: KH6/AA4V, Steve, 431,472 points

Members who completed 1000 or more QSOs combined, CW and phone, received their choice of a \$25 Outback Steak House Gift card or a trophy plus a CDXA certificate. The winners in this category:

K2SX, Dennis

N2TU, Lou

W3GQ, Paul

W7DO, Gary

KZ2I, Steve

N4PQX, Bob

W3OA, Dick

Members who completed 500 or more QSOs combined, CW and phone, received a CDXA certificate and a CDXA

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CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.no-ip.com
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600 )	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC

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patch. There were eight winners in this category:

AD4IE, Paul	K1MIJ, Wilson
K4LY, Doug	K4YR, Pat
K8YC, John	N1GC, Gary
W4NZC, Ken	WW4CP, Chris

Members who completed 250 or more QSOs combined, CW and phone, received a CDXA patch. There were five winners in this category:

K2SD, Scott	K4CEB, Eric
NV4A, John	W4WNT, Bill
W4ZV, Bill	

Here are some soapbox comments from the phone contest:

**K3XC:** This was the first ARRL SSB that I operated since 2002. I didn't go full out but I did spend plenty of time in the chair. I only missed a handful of mults, except for 160m, which I don't have an antenna for, and I felt genuinely loud. Conditions were excellent and I knew that I was in for a treat when 20m opened to EU at 5AM Sat morning. Ten meters was exceptional and I worked more countries than I did on 80m. I was even able to work six continents on 10m! Fifteen meters was the money band, where I worked DXCC in one day, along with most of my 60+ JA's. Twenty meters was a strong band too, and I enjoyed a handful of short openings to E and SE Asia. Overall this was a great contest and I can't wait for the next one.

**K5EK:** Your skimmer is great. Perhaps it could be used to generate even more points for the club. Perhaps

an award for the highest percentage of spots/total QSOs or something of that nature. I used the info for mults—it works.

**K8YC:** I found Dick Williams' "SSB Skimmer" to be an innovative use of technology. When I saw spots with a "pound sign", I often checked them to see who was working the band. It seemed like I was following KI4TZ, W3OA, and W3GQ for some periods of the contest. I had planned on a limited time on the contest because I had a Pileup to prepare, but spent more time than I had planned because 15m and 10m was wide open for the first time in recent years. The SFI was 143 on Sunday afternoon! I learned some interesting uses of my RIT to improve my contact success on SSB in the late going. My "first call" success was much improved. It seems like being even slightly off frequency can seriously affect far-end intelligibility under crowded contest conditions. When I tune for S&P, I get what I think is a "good" quality sound, but, as you know, our ear will tolerate a lot of garbage. It seemed like many times I thought I had a station tuned in well, but I'd have to call a lot considering the pretty good signal I was hearing. Only when I worked the station and moved up or down did I find a "better spot" for that station. I figured maybe I was a little off frequency. So, I began turning on the RIT with a zero offset and tuned in a station. Then I'd tweak the RIT to see if I could improve the clarity of the signal. When I found the "perfect" spot, I'd check the offset, reset the RIT to zero offset and then change the main tuning dial by the observed offset so the freq would be recorded correctly. In the late going, it seemed to be quite effective compared to what I had been seeing all weekend.

**KI4TZ:** Had fun and new antenna worked great, not as hoarse as usual, hi hi. The program worked great and made me quite a few points. I had to be away from 10am Sat to 10 that night so I missed a good chunk. Condx were excellent on the upper bands. Most fun was the JA, UA0 and KL7 run Sunday afternoon. KL7 were 20 over and was told I was big there too. I also busted a nice pileup on a UA0 that showed up as a mult late in the day. Must have worked 20 or 30 JA's in a row which in every case did not have to repeat call or report; unlike the LU/PY run earlier that took days it seemed like repeating and repeating call and rpt. There were also 4 other tango zulus working the contest which became confusing at times for the DX.

**N4PQX:** Limited time for me, very sporadic seat time,

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## The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association  
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL  
P. O. Box 577  
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.

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just 10.5 hours so tried to maximize mults for a better score. Conditions seemed quite good, nice opening on 10m Sunday morning into Europe, let's hope that continues into fall contest time. Heard lots of the locals and the not so local IN3ZNR.

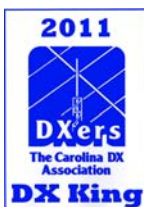
**N4ZC:** All search and pounce. As in the past, the price to have 10m open is poor low bands. In the past it didn't matter much that my amp doesn't work on 10. It mattered big time this year with so many signals just above the noise. It took much too long to get what I got. Often the first hour can be slow as everyone has a big pileup. This was a great year, everyone came back on the first call for an 80 first hour. This contest doesn't generate as much DX as CQWW so there were too many dull periods with nothing left to work. I lost a few hours doing my Sunday radio show and about an hour of S9+ rain static but all in all a pretty good weekend. I'm just getting too old to put in as much time as in the past.

### Welcome New Members

We usually see a surge of new members following the Charlotte Hamfest, and 2011 is no exception. We happily welcome 8 new or returning members to CDXA.

David Funderburk, KI4PWO	Peachland, NC
William Stevenson, AJ4JZ	Belmont, NC
Dan Wise, K4FD	Southport, NC
John Beam, Jr., KA4IUO	Rock Hill, SC
Jack Barr, W4JWO	Jefferson, NC
Wayne Helms, N4HWH	Concord, NC
Eileen Benkis, KO4DI	Franklin, NC
Ed Benkis, W2HTI	Franklin, NC

We are in the process of editing our roster data to reflect new members and delete those who have not renewed their memberships for 2011. Early estimates are that our membership count will continue to be over 200 in 2011.



### DX King News

By Dick Williams, W3OA



Item 1: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win a 26 inch LCD flat panel television are on page 8 of the January Pileup  
<http://www.cdxa.org/pileup/archives/cdxa1101.pdf>.

Item 2: Here are the 2011 DX King scores I have as of March 31:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	238	40	278
W3OA	Unlimited	208	39	247
WA4DT	Unlimited	195	38	233
W3GQ	Unlimited	189	38	227
N4PQX	Unlimited	174	39	213
K3XC	Unlimited	173	39	212
KZ2I	Unlimited	155	38	193
W3ZL	Formula	159	34	193
W1AJT	Unlimited	150	34	184
K1MIJ	Unlimited	145	34	179
N2TU	Unlimited	138	32	170
K8YC	Unlimited	136	31	167
K4ESE*	Unlimited	133	34	167
K2SX	Unlimited	127	35	162
W4WNT	Formula	128	28	156
W4NZC	Formula	106	28	134
K3IRV**	Formula	100	28	128
AF1E	Unlimited	63	23	86

\* All 80 meters

\*\* New Entry

Item 3: Don't forget to send me your DX marathon scores (w3oa@roadrunner.com) as of the last day of each month after your score reaches 100.

### Mensa Applies Their Genius to Expand Our Language

Here is the Washington Post's Mensa Invitational which once again asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition.

**Intaxication** : Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

**Bozone** (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.

**Giraffiti**: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.

## Your Single Band DXCC Numbers on the CDXA Web Site

Dick Williams, W3OA

For the last few months there has been a link on CDXA's Web site that takes users to a page showing our members' Single Band DXCC numbers ([http://www.cdxa.org/dxcc\\_individual\\_band\\_count.shtml](http://www.cdxa.org/dxcc_individual_band_count.shtml)). Many have noticed there are a lot of blank spots on the page where they expect to see some big numbers. Some members don't even have entries. So the page doesn't reflect the true status of our members' accomplishments. This article explains why this is so and how we will correct the situation.

**Where do the numbers come from?** The DXCC numbers we now show come from the ARRL Web site. Almost daily they post a PDF file for each of the DXCC awards showing the current DXCC standings for those that have received that particular award. These files show each member's total entity count, current plus deleted entities. About the first of each month I download these files and paste the data from each into an Excel file, each one in a separate worksheet. I also paste a current list of CDXA members and the numbers currently shown on the CDXA single band Web page in separate worksheets. Then I run a program which extracts the entity counts for CDXA members and shows which ones have changed from last month. I email this information to Wayne, the Webmaster, and he updates the Web page.

**Why the blank spots?** Each ARRL file only shows your call if you applied (and paid for) that particular award. For example, you may have credit for 300 countries on 20 meters. But if you haven't applied for the 20 meter single band award you won't show in the ARRL 20 meter file.

**How will we fix this on the CDXA Web site?** The only way I know of is for each member who isn't happy with her/his numbers on the CDXA site to send me her/his current numbers. You can do this in one of two ways: 1) Mail me a paper copy of the DXCC Award Credit Slip you receive from the ARRL after they process an application, or 2) Email me ([w3oa@roadrunner.com](mailto:w3oa@roadrunner.com)) a screen shot of your DXCC Account Status page for your Logbook of the World account. We will then keep these numbers on the CDXA page until you send us new numbers as specified above or a new number appears in one of the ARRL files.

**How do I email you a screen shot?** It's a simple process:

- 1.) Open up your email program and start an email to [w3oa@roadrunner.com](mailto:w3oa@roadrunner.com) with a subject line of your callsign plus the words "DXCC Status".
- 2.) Using your Internet browser, navigate to your DXCC Account Status page for your Logbook of the World account.
- 3.) Click on the Status page, then hold down the Alt key and push the Print Screen key.
- 4.) Click in the body block of the email you started in step 1. Then hold down the Ctrl key and push the V key. This should put a picture of your status page, like the one below, in the email. Please make sure the picture is big enough so I can read the numbers.
- 4.) Send the email to me.

**When should I send this information?** You don't need to send me your information if you are happy with the numbers shown for you now. If you aren't happy with them you should normally send me your information once just after the DXCC Desk has processed an application for you. But for our transition to this new procedure send me your information by the first of May so I can include it in the May update.

The screenshot shows the 'Your Logbook DXCC Account' page for W3OA. The page includes a navigation bar with links like Home, Your DXCCs, Awards, Find Call, Updated File, and Your Account. The main content area is titled 'Your Logbook DXCC Account (W3OA - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)' and contains an 'Account Status' table. This table lists various DXCC awards and their corresponding entity counts. To the right of the table, there is a section titled 'This account includes credits for the following:' which lists W3OA - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and W3OA - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Below this, it states 'This account is linked with DXCC record: RICHARD T WILLIAMS, W3OA'. There are also 'Notes' and a 'View Award Credit Matrix' link at the bottom.

Award	Selected	Applied	Awarded	Total	Current
DXCC	2	2	342	342	338
10M	12	7	286	294	272
15M	2	2	342	342	338
17M	6	2	286	294	291
20M	3	4	102	109	107
30M	4	2	169	175	171
40M	6	7	227	242	237
50M	8	11	136	155	153
60M	4	2	327	333	326
70M	8	19	206	232	228
80M	6	7	296	309	302
90M	6	7	136	155	150
100M	13	7	136	155	150
120M	5	1	296	304	296
Challenge	69	60	1962	2091	1971
S-Band 10M	...	...	...	...	...
S-Band 100M	...	...	...	...	...
S-Band 170M	...	...	...	...	...
S-Band 120M	...	...	...	...	...

## 2011 Field Day Dick Williams, W3OA

It's not too early to start thinking about Field Day. Operations will be Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26. CDXA will be operating W4DXA from the QTH of KI4TZ, Joe Barkley's new home and station in Chester, SC. The picture is one of Joe himself wearing one of the handsome tee shirts each CDXA participant received last year. We will have a similar shirt this year.

Next month's Pileup will have more details on our plans. For now, please put June 25 and 26 on your calendar and let me know when you can operate and your preferred mode, CW or SSB. Email me at [w3oa@roadrunner.com](mailto:w3oa@roadrunner.com) or call (704) 658-0915.



## Ten and Twenty Years Ago. . . .

### Ten Years Ago:

Joe Blackwell (AA4NN) and Ken Cannaday (W4NZC) were just returning from a DXpedition to Pratas Island (BQ9P). While there Joe and Ken apparently ate a whole lot of eggs as a staple of their diet. Ask Joe about the dangers of going outside the garrison perimeter to stretch a Beverage antenna. . . . Your editor produced the Pileup from his hotel room at the Cleveland Clinic where his XYL was acting as an organ donor for her sister. Barb's sister is alive today—the tenth anniversary of the event. With the realization that thousands of people are awaiting organ donations, K8YC's drivers license now indicates he is an organ donor. . . . The Five Star DXers Association was had just completed an outstanding effort to bring Comoros Island (D68C) to the DX Community. They set a new daily QSO record of over 16,000 QSOs on the first day by having 8 stations on the air simultaneously. At the end, over 168,700 QSOs for the DXpedition set a new record. . . . Tim Slay (PE) gave a presentation at the Charlotte Hamfest on lightning grounding, and it is recapped in the April, 2001 issue. This is a good refresher read for anyone grounding their antennas. . . . Don Daso reported that there is a new Windows-based contesting program that may give CT a run for its money—the author is Tom Wagner (N1MM)!!!

### Twenty Years Ago:

Lightning grounding must be on a ten year review cycle. Twenty years ago the Pileup had an article on lightning grounding. As noted above, ten years later, the Pileup had an article on lightning grounding!. . . . Would you believe that CDXA was selling shirts and name badges in the Pileup in 1991—some things never change. . . . N4ZC was ecstatic that his contest station, operating with N4ZC, K2SD, and N4ROL had just been judged #1 in the USA and #4 in the World in the WAE contest of 1990. . . . and for \$64,000, who was the CDXA President in 1991? (Answer on Back Page)

## Logbook of the World

By John Scott, K8YC

At last look, Logbook of the World (LoTW) had just under 339,000,000 entries resulting in a little over 39,820,000 QSL records.

Many more International radio amateurs are now enrolled in LoTW resulting in rapid and inexpensive confirmation of contacts for at least ARRL awards. I recently hit a milestone by having over 30% of all QSO records submitted to LoTW be confirmed by that means. The incremental QSO records now being added result in a much higher percentage of confirmation as more and more people become LoTW users. I am also finding the contesting community is using the system more and more to reduce the burden of responding to QSL cards. It is not unusual to find many contest QSOs confirmed when you upload as early as Monday morning following a contest weekend.

So, ladies and gents, become a LoTW user if you want to reduce your postage expense and speed QSL response.

## The Back Page

ARRL **International DX Contest** Wrapup is reported starting on Page 1.

**DX King competition** is in full swing. There is some serious competition at the top of this years' competition, and the improved solar flux is feeding that competition. See Page 3.

Contest Manager Dick Williams highlights some changes in reporting **single band** statistics on the CDXA website. Have you been wondering why as a 5BDXCC holder you weren't showing up on the CDXA website? Well, wonder no more, but there may be a small task in store for you to get recognized. See Page 4.

In the first days of Spring, a ham's attention turns to **FIELD DAY!** Dick Williams is again looking for "a few good men" to sustain our fine performance of recent years. Are you up to it? See Page 5.

What were you doing ten years ago? How about 20 years ago? On Page 5, you can find out what CDXA was doing **Ten and Twenty Years Ago** when Ken Boyd was CDXA President.

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